

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE**

**PRESCRIBED GRAZING**

(ac.)  
**CODE 528A**

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

- A.** South Dakota (SD) Specification Sheet SD-CPA-39, feed and forage balance, for present conditions.
- B.** SD Specification Sheet SD-CPA-39, feed and forage balance, for planned conditions will be completed if present conditions show a shortage of feed and/or forage and conservation plan calls for increasing available feed and forage through seeding, grazing management or other conservation measures. Must also be completed if additional livestock will be run on the unit when compared to present conditions.
- C.** SD Specification Sheet SD-CPA-15a or 15b, grazing management schedules and plans.
- D.** SD Specification Sheet SD-CPA-16, record of livestock grazing.
- E.** SD Specification Sheet SD-ECS-12, rangeland trend, will be completed for minimum of two key management sites within the unit.
- F.** SD Specification Sheet SD-ECS-13 or 14, rangeland similarity index, will be completed for minimum of two key management sites within the unit.
- G.** At each key management site (where trend and similarity indexes were actually measured) take photographs showing a close-up of vegetation and a panoramic view.

**OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS**

None

**PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**

- A.** Document historical grazing and livestock management including rotations, stocking rates, husbandry, and supplementation programs, and identified resource concerns in conservation assistance notes.
- B.** Individually delineate and label all ecological sites and forage suitability groups on the plan map, or list the ecological sites and forage suitability groups found in each field with the percentage that each site occupies on the plan map.
- C.** Show current similarity index and trend direction in comparison to the "Interpretive" plant community for each ecological site on the plan map.
- D.** Delineate any condition breaks and/or trend changes on the plan map.
- E.** Delineate all existing and planned improvements (fences, ponds, tanks etc.) required to apply prescribed grazing on the plan map.
- F.** For rangeland, delineate the location of the key management sites where trend and similarity indexes were measured (completed ECS-12 and ECS-13) on the plan map.
- G.** At a minimum of two key management sites determine a similarity index rating (SD-ECS-13 or 14), trend rating (SD-ECS-12) and average biomass production.
- H.** For pastureland, determine average biomass production and stocking rate at a minimum of two key management sites.
- I.** Assist cooperators in the development of a drought contingency plan.

**PERFORMANCE**

- A.** Annually conduct a field check to determine average utilization levels on rangeland and average leaf length on pasturelands and to assess practice performance. At a minimum the field with the highest AUM usage when compared to planned stocking rates (from SD-CPA-16) and the field that the client says is the "shortest" will be field checked. If these are over utilized than more fields will be examined.
- B.** Annually complete SD-CPA-16 Specification Sheet. Complete for both range and pasture land uses.
- C.** Annually retake photographs of the key management sites including a close-up and panoramic view.
- D.** Every three years and at the end of the technical assistance period complete a new similarity index assessment (SD-ECS-13 or 14) and a new trend assessment (SD-ECS-12) on rangelands at the same location as the original survey.